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**CONTACT: 00-03
THOMAS TRIPP
AMY STILWELL
(202) 395-3230**

USTR Announces Personnel Changes

United States Trade Representative, Charlene Barshefsky, today announced the retirement of Mr. Robert B. Cassidy, the Assistant United States Trade Representative (AUSTR) for China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Mongolia, and the appointment of Mr. Donald M. Phillips to the position. Mr. Phillips, currently AUSTR for Asia-Pacific and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Affairs and a twenty year veteran negotiator at USTR, will assume his new job upon Mr. Cassidy's January 31, 2000 retirement.

"It gives me tremendous pleasure to designate Don Phillips as the new AUSTR for China," said Ambassador Barshefsky. "He brings an extraordinary negotiating track record, an enormous reservoir of experience, global recognition, and a distinctive personal style to this crucial position. He is regarded by me and his colleagues around the world as one of the best in the business, and I have great confidence in his ability to help guide our China policy through the critical time ahead. His relationships in China and across Asia, as well as in Europe and Latin America make him the perfect choice for the job."

Ambassador Barshefsky further commented, "Robert Cassidy has been a tremendous asset to USTR. Without Bob, the historic US-China Bilateral WTO Agreement reached last November would not have been possible. His tenacity, creativity, and ties throughout Asia are well known. Our country should take pride in his accomplishments."

Donald M. Phillips became Assistant USTR for Asia-Pacific and APEC Affairs in 1997. In this capacity, he was the lead US negotiator for the APEC sectoral liberalization initiative and oversaw bilateral trade relations with the Asia region. Prior to his current position, Mr. Phillips served as AUSTR for Industry where he was responsible for a range of pivotal trade areas and was instrumental in concluding a range of agreements, including two of the three US-Japan Semiconductor Agreements (1991 and 1996), the US-EU Aircraft Agreement (1992), the China Space Launch Agreement (1995), the multilateral Shipbuilding Agreement (1994), the Japan Wood Products Agreement (1990), and the renewal of the bilateral voluntary restraints on steel

(1989) and the initiation of multilateral negotiations on steel. Mr. Phillips also has extensive experience in agricultural issues. Prior to joining USTR in 1980, he worked for thirteen years at the United States Department of Agriculture, including eight years in the Department's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and four years as Assistant Agricultural Attache at the US Mission to the European Community in Brussels, Belgium.

Robert B. Cassidy was appointed to the position of AUSTR for China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Mongolia in May 1997. Before his current assignment, Mr. Cassidy served as AUSTR for Asia and the Pacific. Mr. Cassidy, an experienced senior trade negotiator, worked on a range of bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations, most recently as the lead career negotiator for the US-China and US-Taiwan Bilateral WTO Agreements which were concluded in 1999 and 1998 respectively.

He also played key roles in a variety of areas, including developing support among APEC countries for the 1996 Information Technology Agreement (ITA); agreements to protect US intellectual property in Taiwan, the Philippines and Thailand; developing worker rights procedures in Indonesia; and he was crucial to the renewal of the bilateral voluntary restraints on steel in 1989 and, thereafter, negotiations on a multilateral agreement on steel. Mr. Cassidy joined USTR in 1986.